

F-9-R-12 Southwest Montana Fishery

Job I. High Mountain Lake Survey.

The objective is to determine which high mountain lakes are capable of maintaining a sport fishery. Some high lakes contain no spawning facilities and introductions are needed periodically. Others are too shallow to maintain fish populations throughout the year. Surveys are essential to determine if planting will be necessary, unnecessary, or harmful. Thirteen high lakes were surveyed by the helicopter crew last year in the Hilgard area north of Earthquake Lake. Four of the lakes contained poor to fair rainbow trout populations and two lakes contained fair cutthroat populations. Of seven lakes found barren, four were considered worthless for a sport fishery. Two of the barren lakes were stocked with trout last summer, and some of the others may be planted depending upon Forest Service plans for trail improvement. Other high lakes in the District will be added to the program since the helicopter offers an economical and rapid method of survey on waters unaccessible to motor vehicles.